



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/996,879      | 11/30/2001  | Martin Welt          | 056276-5003         | 2760             |

9629 7590 12/11/2006

MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP  
1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

|          |
|----------|
| EXAMINER |
|----------|

DASS, HARISH T

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3693

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplement  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/996,879

Examiner

Harish T. Dass

Applicant(s)

WELT, MARTIN

Art Unit

3693

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-56.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 4/26/04 & 6/3/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
JAMES P. TRAMMELL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Note: This supplement action removes the drawing objection, because Applicant had submitted professional drawings to PTO on 3/28/2002.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 -

(d) upon receipt of a selection of a vendor, the web site sending the computing device that vendor's list of approved products corresponding to the selected department or category, as recited in Independent Claim 1.

Claim 28 -

(d) upon receipt of a selection of a vendor, the web site sending the buyer that vendor's list of approved products corresponding to the selected department or category, as recited in Independent Claim 28.

Claim 55 -

d) upon receipt of a selection of a first vendor, the web site sending the buyer the first vendor's list of approved products corresponding to the selected department or category, as recited in Independent Claim 55.

### **Prior art**

US 2002/0052806 A1 (*Hodson et al.*) discloses an online shopping system for a user to order and purchase items and more particularly to a system and method for providing an electronic shopping system having an integrated shopping cart functionality.

Integrated shopping cart functionality is provided on a first website so that products/services from different affiliated websites can be integrated into the shopping cart at the first website and the e-commerce functionality of the first website can be utilized to purchase the selected products/services

### **Foreign Patent**

JP04027173 (SENDA, SHUICHI et al.) discloses generating a parts list of a product of a single type from the drawing generated by a designer and without sending the list onto the paper and then to offer the parts list to a generation department together with a design drawing.

### **NPL**

MacManus, Susan A., "Why Businesses Are Reluctant to Sell to Governments", *Public Administration Review*. Washington: Jul/Aug 1991. Vol.51, Iss. 4; pg. 328, 17 pgs ProQuest document ID: 708752, discloses at a time when governments are actively and aggressively seeking more opportunities to rely on the private sector, news media accounts indicate that the business community has become more cautious about selling

Art Unit: 3693

to the government. Some believed that government officials were intentionally exclusionary, when they drew up the specs. A typical comment from one survey respondent was: "Bid specs are intentionally designed to allow only one manufacturer's piece of equipment to be bid, usually to a sole-source vendor." Another respondent cited intentional nonadherence to specs once the bidding process was underway: "Specifications are purposefully relaxed to accept an inferior product (low bid) or a product that was not on the approved list prior to bid opening.

Each of the prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest the above features recited in independent claims 1, 28 and 55.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harish T. Dass whose telephone number is 571-272-6793. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:50 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3693

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Harish T Dass  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3693

10/16/2006